



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

15 OCTOBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Huntington Beach – FBI Joins Investigation of Orange County Oil Spill

(U) The FBI has joined the investigation into the oil spill off the coast of Orange County, which the US Coast Guard said was much smaller than earlier estimates. Multiple state and federal investigative agencies are already examining whether any criminal violations occurred with the pipeline leak, which spilled into the waters off Huntington Beach nearly two-weeks ago. The FBI is now assisting with the criminal investigation, which among other things, is examining whether there was a negligent discharge of oil into navigable waters. Officials have not yet served any search warrants in connection with the investigation.

SOURCE: 14 October 2021, [LA Times](#)

(U) Mountain View – Google Warns of Iranian Hackers Continuing to Wage Attacks

(U) An Iranian hacking group that targeted a US presidential campaign in last year's election continues to conduct attacks, using an evolving list of tactics to dupe victims into clicking on malicious links. Known variously as APT35, Phosphorous, Charming Kitten, and Ajax Security team, the hacking group has hijacked accounts, deployed malware, and used novel techniques to conduct espionage aligned with the interests of the Iranian government, according to Google's Threat Analysis Group. APT35 has targeted "high-value" accounts in government, journalism, academia, nonprofits, foreign policy, and national security, which play a role in how the international community views Iran. In early 2021, APT35 sent email messages with links to a fake website where users were instructed to activate an invitation to a webinar by logging in, an attempt to harvest credentials.

SOURCE: 15 October 2021, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Stockton – Suspect Arrested in Shooting Where Gunman Reportedly Called Victim a Racial Slur

(U) Detectives have arrested a suspect wanted for shooting a Black Stockton man repeatedly while also allegedly calling him a racial slur. Surveillance cameras captured the shooting on video, showing the attacker firing relentlessly towards the victim, who was backing away with his hands up. The victim's family said the 45-year-old victim was shot twice in the face and suffered several other gunshot wounds on his body, including his throat. The bullets narrowly missed major arteries. Stockton police stated they were investigating the shooting as a possible hate crime after the suspect reportedly stated a racial slur over and over again as he was shooting the victim.

SOURCE: 14 October 2021, [CBS Sacramento](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida – Parkland School Massacre Will Enter a Guilty Plea

(U) Parkland – On Friday morning, attorneys for Nikolas Cruz, 23, announced that Cruz would plead guilty to 17 counts of first-degree murder in the Parkland High School Massacre. The decision by Cruz and his attorneys to plead guilty came unexpectedly. The guilty plea would set up a penalty phase where Cruz will face the death penalty or life-without-parole. The shooting, which took place on 14 February 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, has been delayed due to the pandemic and arguments between the defense and prosecution. The pleas come with no conditions, and prosecutors still plan to

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seek the death penalty. The decision will be handed down by a jury at a trial yet to be scheduled. Cruz will also plead guilty to 17 counts of attempted first-degree murder and attacking a jail guard nine months after the shooting. Cruz was not present during the hearing.

SOURCE: 15 October 2021, [WKBO](#)

(U) New Jersey – Two Men Indicted in Connection with a Gun Trafficking Conspiracy

(U) Trenton – A New Jersey man and a Florida man were charged with conspiring to illegally sell firearms, including multiple handguns and a semi-automatic rifle. From May 2020 through September 2020, Manuel Espinosa-Ozoria, 31, Enrique Quijada, 24, and others were members of a firearm trafficking conspiracy operating in Monmouth and Ocean counties. The firearms were unlawfully obtained, possessed, and sold for profit. Espinosa-Ozoria and Quijada are each charged with one count of conspiracy to engage in firearms trafficking.

SOURCE: 14 October 2021, [US DOJ](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan – Suicide Attack on Shiite Mosque Kills 37

(U) Kabul – Suicide bombers assaulted the Imam Barga mosque in southern Afghanistan, packed with worshippers attending weekly Friday prayers. The attackers killed at least 37 people and wounded more than 70. The attack on the Shiite mosque came a week after a bombing claimed by a local Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) affiliate killed 46 people at a Shiite mosque in northern Afghanistan. An eye-witness said four suicide bombers attacked the mosque. Two detonated their explosives at a security gate, allowing the other two to run inside and strike the congregation of worshippers. ISIS has claimed several deadly bombings across the country since the Taliban seized power in August. The group has also targeted Taliban fighters in smaller attacks.

SOURCE: 15 October 2021, [AP News](#)

(U) South Africa – Disgruntled Military Veterans Held Ministers Hostage at Hotel

(U) Irene – Disgruntled military veterans held ministers Thandi Modise and Mondli Gungubele hostage at the St George's Hotel Thursday night, forcing police and security forces to intervene. A veteran speaking on behalf of the hostage-takers said the former soldiers wanted reparations, among other demands. The meeting broke down when the leaders and veterans failed to reach a consensus, and the ministers decided to adjourn the meeting. Fifty-six people were arrested and are likely to face charges of at least three counts of kidnapping.

SOURCE: 14 October 2021, [Times Live](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Member of Parliament, Sir David Amess Killed in Stabbing Attack

(U) Essex – David Amess, 69, a British Member of Parliament (MP), was killed after being stabbed several times during a meeting with his constituents at a church in Leigh-on-Sea. Around midday, a 25-year-old man walked into Belfairs Methodist Church and attacked the politician. Police quickly arrested the man and cordoned off the area to begin investigating. No motive for the attack has been identified yet. The incident marks the second murder of a sitting British lawmaker in five-years. In June 2016, Labour Party lawmaker Jo Cox was fatally stabbed and shot in her northern England constituency.

SOURCE: 15 October 2021, [CNN](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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